July 17, 2012

Dear District Administrator:

You are receiving four packets of information:

Agenda 2017
- State Superintendent Tony Evers' Agenda 2017
- Summary Points: Every Child a Graduate - Agenda 2017

School Report Card Packet
- Sample Report Cards
  - Version 1 – *School Report Card*: Report Card with school performance data; to provide overall school performance information
    - One example draft – no data
  - Version 2 – *Technical Report Card*: Report Card with technical data; to accompany Accountability Index Technical Guide and facilitate calculation of accountability scores
    - Elementary, Middle, High School – each with sample data

Report Card Resources
- Brief Fact Sheet: Accountability for Schools
- Summary Points: Accountability for Schools - New Report Cards and Accountability System
- Report Card Interpretive Guide
- Accountability Index Technical Guide

College & Career Ready Cut Scores
- Brief Fact Sheet: Higher Expectations
- Summary Points: Higher Expectations – New College & Career Readiness Benchmarks for WKCE
- Statewide Impact Data Using New College & Career Readiness Benchmarks

The new report card is part of a major change to Wisconsin's accountability system. Each year schools will receive a report card that serves as their accountability report. In response to feedback from educators, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has created two versions of the 2011-12 report card. Both versions provide a primary report card, "page one," but differ in the supplementary pages. The *School Report Card* provides, in addition to page one, overall school performance data to serve as a guide for school improvement efforts. It includes additional data not related directly to accountability calculations and display data in ways that should guide exploration and inform school improvement planning around successful policies and practices. The *School Report Card* is intended for school and district staff focused on school improvement, parents, and the public.

The *Technical Report Card* is meant as an accompaniment to the Accountability Index Technical Guide. In addition to page one, it includes data for those who are interested in the details of the calculations behind the data displayed in the *Technical Report Card*. Along with the step-by-step information in the

Accountability Index Technical Guide about calculating accountability index scores, the *Technical Report Card* may be used to better understand the intricacies of the accountability index.

The *Technical Report Card* is more of an instrument for transparency than an instrument for school improvement. Calculating accountability scores does not better inform school efforts. Engaging in a process of inquiry that incorporates multiple measures beyond the report cards will most certainly result in planning and decisions that are better informed and more likely to result in school improvement.

The packet of resources on the new college- and career-readiness assessment cut scores includes statewide performance data with these higher performance benchmarks. The college- and career-ready cut score change is being applied only to Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Examination (WKCE) scores for reading and mathematics at this time.

We are soliciting feedback on the sample report cards. We have created a brief survey (https://forms.dpi.wi.gov/se.ashx?s=56301B2D0C420364). The survey will be open to the public and is included on this webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html). Please complete the survey and encourage staff throughout your district to complete the survey. The more input, the better.

The 2011-12 report cards will be finalized and released in the fall. Over the summer and into the fall, DPI will work with schools and districts to build a collective understanding of the new accountability system and, specifically, the report cards. We are working with a cadre of Accountability Trainers from districts and CESAs to develop online interactive modules to accompany the final report cards.

We know that this is a considerable amount of information and that it has many nuances and details. To assist you, Summary Points have been provided. You may find these helpful in talking with staff and community members.

I hope you find the attached resources helpful. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Lynette Russell, Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Student and School Success, at lynette.russell@dpi.wi.gov, or 608-266-5199.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Thompson, PhD
Deputy State Superintendent
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

c: CESA Administrators
        Accountability Trainers